

Study to hunt best ways to get to work next century

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Will Louisville area residents be speeding to work on a light rail transit system in the next century?

Are tramways built exclusively for high-speed buses more feasible than new expressways, when sharply increasing gas prices are discouraging private automobile use?

Transportation planners will seek answers to such questions in a study announced yesterday by the Kentucky Regional Planning and Development Agency.

The study, in seeking to learn how public transportation dollars should be spent in future years, will evaluate a number of alternatives for meeting transportation needs in Louisville's seven major corridors downtown and in Southern Indiana.

Schimpeler-Corradino Associates will do the study. It has done similar ones in Miami, Detroit, Houston, Dallas and Columbus, Ohio.

Vince Akhimie, the planning agency's transportation director, said the study will seek "to plan for an effective public transit and transportation system which meets the expected needs of the Louisville community for the year 2000 and beyond."

The seven corridors being studied fan out from downtown Louisville

along the following general routes:

✓ East along Frankfort Avenue and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad tracks to the Anchorage-Middle-town area.

✓ South on Fourth Street to near Churchill Downs, then east to Jefferson-town along the Southern Railway tracks.

✓ South along the L&N Railroad and Interstate 65, then east to the Okolona area.

✓ South along Dixie Highway and the Illinois Central Gulf tracks to Valley Station.

✓ North through Jeffersonville to the Charlestown, Ind., area.

✓ North through Clarksville to Sellersburg, Ind.

✓ West through New Albany to Greenville and Georgetown, Ind.

Akhimie said the study is needed to qualify the area for federal grants that may become available for various transportation alternatives.

He said the public will be asked to comment on the proposals. The first public meeting will be Monday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the agency's office at 914 E. Broadway.

Three other public meetings will be scheduled in January, March and June when interim reports are to be made by the consultant.